

PATENT

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:	Laurie A. Castonguay et al.	
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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

The above identified case is a PCT application entering the US National Phase under 35 U.S.C. § 371 and Article 39(1)(a) of the Patent Cooperation Treaty. Applicant respectfully requests entry of the following amendments prior to prosecution of the subject application. Any additional fees associated with this Amendment may be charged to Merck Deposit Account No. 13-2755.

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

An **Appendix** including a replacement Abstract page is attached following page 24 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 24 of this paper.

**EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE**

DATE OF DEPOSIT September 29, 2004  
EXPRESS MAIL NO. EL989603715US

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail "Post Office to Addressee" on the above date in an envelope addressed to:

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